Department of History, Arts and Libraries • Fall 2002 • Volume I • Issue IV

Happy Birthday, HAL!

Department of History, Arts and Libraries Celebrates One-Year Anniversary, Considerable Accomplishments in First Year

It's been a full and fruitful first year for the new kid on the state government block, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). Since its formation on October 1, 2001, HAL has made significant strides in carrying out its mission of enriching quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity.

"Thanks to the vision of Governor Engler and the Legislature in combining these functions into one unified department, along with the collaborative efforts of all HAL staff, the department has made a positive impact on the arts, culture, history and libraries in Michigan," said Dr. William Anderson, director of HAL. "We have made substantial progress on every one of the program goals we set when HAL formed."

HAL and its agencies (the Library of Michigan, Michigan Historical Center, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Mackinac Island State Park Commission and Michigan Film Office) have achieved much in the department's first year. Those accomplishments include:

- Helping build cultural tourism products by creating two programs to enhance Michigan's ability to attract visitors, the Maritime Heritage Destination and the Cultural Tourism Visitor Experience Pilot Project, and working with the federal government on the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.
- Launching the Michigan e-Library (MeL), which provides residents from across Michigan free access to a rich

collection of quality databases, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere there's an internet connection.

- Building agency infrastructure through the development of a rare book room in the state Library and land protection at Mackinac Island State Park.
- Designing the Michigan quarter. Over 4,000 individuals, many of them schoolchildren, submitted concepts for the Michigan Quarter design program, coordinated by HAL and the Michigan Quarter Commission. Five final concepts were selected and forwarded to the U.S. Mint.
- Improving and expanding Michigan Week. The success of Michigan Week 2002 exceeded expectations. In addition to traditional programs like kickoff parades, recognition of community volunteers, and the Mayor's Exchange, Michigan Week 2002 featured a host of new HAL-initiated and coordinated programs.
- Participating in and expanding the collaboration for the "Summer of Sports" project in 2003. Both the Mackinac State Historic Parks and the Michigan Historical Museum are key partners in this first-ever effort to present a concurrent theme at major history museums across the state, with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) providing important funding.
- Developing a new education program, the "Big Culture Lesson," which provides funding for arts education projects that introduce educators, students, parents and others to Michigan's

rich and diverse cultural heritage and includes the contributions of professional staff from throughout the department.

- Identifying opportunities for professional development and programming enhancement for Michigan cultural organizations, schools and policy makers through education, international arts and cultural exchange.
- Helping libraries and cultural institutions take advantage of broadband connections, through the Library of Michigan's continuing leadership in efforts to make high-speed Internet access available for residents in every community.

Among the new responsibilities that HAL has taken on are:

- The recently created Michigan Film Advisory Commission, which brings additional private resources to the Film Office director's effort to promote Michigan as an ideal place to produce feature films and television commercials.
- The Michigan Commission on Asia in the Schools, which will soon issue its report assessing what students are taught about the Asian region and presenting recommendations and a plan of action to stimulate education about Asia and other world regions in Michigan schools.
- The Michigan Freedom Trail Commission, which strengthens the state's efforts to promote and preserve the history of the Underground Railroad in Michigan.

The Department of History, Arts and Libraries looks forward to building upon its inaugural success as it continues to work toward enhancing quality of life in Michigan.

What's Goin

HAL Calendar of Events November - January

MAGIC WORKSHOP Michigan Historical Museum Saturday, November 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Kids ages 8 through 12 can join members of the Lansing Magicians Guild for this magic workshop. Using simple household items, the magicians will demonstrate some easy-to-learn tricks that kids can take home. Tickets are \$5.00 each, available at the Museum Store. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. Fee covers the cost of supplies. Seating limited to 50.

USING THE BARBOUR & HALE COLLECTIONS TO LOCATE EARLY CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS Library of Michigan, Lake Erie Training Center, First Floor

Saturday, November 2 at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m.

Covering 137 Connecticut towns, the Barbour Collection of Connecticut vital records and the Hale Collection of over 2,000 Connecticut cemetery headstone inscriptions, plus much more, will interest genealogists and the public alike.

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP Michigan Library and Historical Center Saturday, November 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This workshop, designed for both novice and experienced oral historians who are interested in capturing and preserving America's wartime experiences, is presented by the Friends of Michigan History and is co-sponsored by the Michigan Oral History Association (MOHA), Michigan State University Museum, and the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). It kicks off the Michigan Veterans History Project, a new program coordinated by the MSU Museum and HAL, which will record the stories of those who served America in war during the 20th century, both on the battlefield and on the home front.

VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM AND MASSING OF THE COLORS Michigan Historical Center, Forum Auditorium Sunday, November 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Join the Friends of Michigan History and the Military Order of the World Wars in paying tribute to those who served in Vietnam. Vietnam veterans will share their personal recollections. Veterans, patriotic, civic and Scout groups are urged to participate in the Massing of the Colors portion of the program. For more information, telephone (517) 373-1668 or e-mail *DancisakC@michigan.gov*.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE INTERNET Library of Michigan, Lake Erie Training Center, First Floor Saturday, November 16 at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Interested in knowing what the federal government has to offer you on the Internet? Find out in this informational session.

ANCESTRYPLUS: AN ONLINE GENEALOGY RESOURCE

Library of Michigan, Lake Erie Training Center, First Floor Saturday, November 23 at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to access digitized images of the Census, the American Genealogical Biographical Index, the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index and more on this online resource. (This resource is available at all participating public libraries in Michigan through MeL, the Michigan eLibrary).

MICHIGAN FICTION

Library of Michigan, Lake Erie Training Center, First Floor Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 18 at 3:00 p.m.

This session will highlight and discuss notable Michigan authors.

HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE MUSEUM Michigan Historical Museum Saturday, December 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Join a fun-filled holiday magic presentation by three members of the Lansing Magicians Guild. Tickets are \$5.00 each, available at the Museum Store. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. Proceeds fund future public programs at the museum. Seating limited to 220.

MAGIC WORKSHOP Michigan Historical Museum Saturday, January 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Kids and adults learn from the magic masters as members of the Lansing Magicians Guild teach them simple tricks to amaze friends and family! Kids' workshop limited to 50 participants; adults' workshop limited to 30 participants. Tickets are \$5.00, available at the Museum Store. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History. Fee covers the cost of supplies.

STATEHOOD DAY Michigan Historical Museum Sunday, January 26

Celebrate Michigan's 166th birthday with music, historical presentations and more!

Thunder Bay Expedition Concludes

New Shipwreck Exhibit to Open in Summer 2003

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) and the Institute for Exploration (IFE) in September wrapped up a two-week expedition at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve off the coast of Alpena.

The expedition team focused research efforts on previously identified target areas thought to contain shipwrecks. Two previously uncharted shipwrecks were located, including a 19th-century schooner. Their identities have not been determined. The team also thoroughly documented 15 known shipwrecks using high-quality video cameras. The data collected will be used to further study the shipwrecks and for future public interpretation.

Dr. Robert Ballard, founder and president of the Institute for Exploration at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Conn., was present for a portion of the expedition. Ballard said he hoped the expedition would serve to stimulate public interest in Thunder Bay. Next summer, new interpretive exhibits will be featured at the sanctuary headquarters in Alpena. Much of the expedition's efforts should go a long way toward providing an eventual live underwater transmission from a shipwreck to an interpretive center.

"The educational and tourism possibilities of Thunder Bay are amazing," said HAL Director Dr. William Anderson. "We always talk about the bountiful resources of Michigan. Thunder Bay is one of only two national marine sanctuaries dedicated to preserving history! This is a unique opportunity for people to learn much about how the Great Lakes affected the region and the country."

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated in October 2000 to protect a nationally significant collection of underwater cultural resources. The sanctuary is comanaged by NOAA and the state of Michigan.



The launch of Little Hercules



Audubon wheel



Bow of the Grecian

For more information about the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, visit http://www.tbnms.glerl.noaa.gov.

Job Seekers and Students Can Now Get LearnATest Exam Help at www.MeL.org

Consider the following scenarios:

- You're seeking work and need help preparing for a civil service or postal worker exam.
- You've always wanted to pursue a career as a real-estate agent or a firefighter.
- Your child needs help preparing for the 8th grade.
- Your 17-year-old is nervous about ACT and SAT college-entrance exams.

Once you've made the decision that you or someone you know could use extra help in either the professional or academic arena, where do you turn?

In early October, the Library of Michigan announced the addition of LearnATest.com to the Michigan eLibrary (www.MeL.org). Now, the unemployed and others pursuing a new career, and parents who want a bit of extra exam help for their children, have 24-hour access to an excellent, free resource.

LearnATest is the leading source of test preparation materials and interactive practice exams based on official tests. The purpose of this service is to help users improve scores on academic, civil service, military and professional licensing and certification exams. Users gain real test-taking experience along with immediate scoring, complete answer explanations and individualized analysis of test scores.

Funding for this new service comes from a \$4 million appropriation of federal Reed Act funds to the Library of Michigan. The cost of the statewide access to LearnATest through Sept. 30, 2005 is \$450,000. The Library's remaining Reed Act funds will be used to support other library programs statewide that assist patrons applying for unemployment and seeking employment via the Internet.

"Anything that helps individuals improve their skills and prepare for a career is a welcome addition to the many excellent career development programs and services offered by the state of Michigan," Dr. Barbara Bolin, director of the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD), said.

LearnATest is provided by Learning Express, LLC, a New York-based publisher of print and online test preparation, career guidance and basic skill practice materials geared to help students and adults improve academic and job-related abilities. New
Houdini
Exhibit Just
Part of the
Magic at
the
Michigan
Historical
Museum



Houdini: A
Magician Among
the Spirits,
the latest special
exhibit at the
Michigan
Historical Museum
in Lansing, is now
open and will run
through January
26, 2003. The



exhibit examines the life of entertainment legend Harry Houdini and his crusade to debunk the claims of phony mediums.

Houdini performed in Michigan many times during his career. His last performance was in Detroit on October 24, 1926. Ignoring a doctor's diagnosis that the great magician had acute appendicitis, Houdini put on a two-and-a-half-hour performance. The following day he was admitted to Grace Hospital, where he died one week later — on Halloween.

"The Houdini exhibit, like all our special exhibits, shows visitors the magic and wonder that this museum holds," says Phillip C. Kwiatkowski, director of the Michigan Historical Museum System.

Visitors can always count on the museum education staff to offer a veritable magic-bag of activities to enhance every special exhibit. The Houdini exhibit kicked off with local magician Kildon performing a straitjacket escape. During the exhibit's four-month run, local magicians will delight visitors with amazing illusions, and a series of workshops offer an opportunity for children and adults to learn the art of magic.

Whether visitors come to the museum on a weekend family outing or as part of one of the museum's programs designed for school groups, they are falling under the spell of 10,000 years of Michigan's past. Museum attendance was up 33 percent this past summer.

The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., two blocks west of the State Capitol in downtown Lansing. The main entrance and visitor parking are located north of Kalamazoo Street, just east of M. L. King Boulevard. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal and click on Michigan Historical Museum or call (517) 373-3559 (TDD 1-800-827-7007).

Michigan History Magazine Salutes Historical Michigan Women

The November/December 2002 edition of *Michigan History* magazine will be a special issue dedicated to women in Michigan's past. It will include articles on labor leader Mildred Jeffries, U.S. Congresswoman Martha Griffiths and Civil War women. It will also feature reader submissions on "women who made a difference." This special issue will include a pictorial of women at work and biographies of important Michigan women, including Madame Cadillac, Rosa Parks, Aretha Franklin and Annie Clemenc. Finally, the Trips section will take a look at women's organizations and what Michigan museums are doing on women's history.

Picture This: A Bright Future for Michigan Arts

Statewide Visioning Creates Blueprint for Community Arts, Culture

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) recently released the results of its seven-month series of statewide visioning sessions, which show that communities want future art and cultural developments to have economic, social, business and educational benefits to their neighborhoods.

The goal of the visioning sessions was to create a realistic blueprint for integrating arts and culture with communities throughout the state.

"We encouraged participants to focus on concrete plans that could be realistically implemented in

their own communities," said Eugene Gargaro, Jr., MCACA chair. "The end result was a practical vision, with common themes among large and small communities."

MCACA held 21 three-hour conversations with more than 500 citizens in 13 Michigan regions. Participants representing government, education, business and arts interests from rural, urban and suburban regions attended meetings in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Midland, Traverse City, Covington, Munising and Sault Ste. Marie.

While each of the 13 participating regions focused on issues specific to their communities, the general themes were similar across the state: the arts and culture should bring communities together, generate revenue, preserve history and be available to educate all people. All the communities want to make art education available for their children and for government – local or state – to provide funding for the arts.

Each community identified different ways arts and culture can influence their residents in the future:

- Residents in the Ann Arbor region determined that a countywide art alliance could be a way to bring fast-growing and diverse communities together.
- Participants in Detroit suggested mobilizing neighborhoods to create art in their streets, making the city itself a work of art.
- Those in Sault Ste. Marie and Covington recognized Native American art and Finnish dance and music as tools for preserving local heritage and educating the public about that heritage.
- Gaylord-area citizens proposed that art be made available to everyone through an independent film theatre, community symphony and multi-media art class for all ages.
- Holland and western Michigan residents looked to architecture programs as a cultural outlet for their communities.

Each community received a summary report of the citizens' findings to use in regional, community or organizational arts and culture planning. The summary reports of each participating region and Michigan Radio broadcasts can be found at www.tmrfacilitators.com.

MCACA anticipates that the visioning sessions and their results will be the first step in ongoing community conversation, collaboration and planning that will serve as the cornerstone of a statewide cultural plan for the next decade.

Ensuring Public Access to Mackinac Island's Sunset Rock

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission (MISPC) recently approved a \$600,000 purchase of an island parcel of land containing Sunset Rock and easements providing public access to the popular rock formation. Sunset Rock, also known locally as Chimney Rock, looks like a chimney affixed to the west bluff of the island. The natural limestone feature is topped by a scenic lookout with stunning views of Lake Huron and the Mackinac Bridge. Long treasured by island visitors and residents, Sunset Rock was on private land and vulnerable to development and not legally open to the public.

"This is an outstanding purchase," said MISPC Chairman Dennis O. Cawthorne. "The Sunset Rock property has one of the most spectacular bluffs on the west side of Mackinac Island."

Mackinac Island State Park is a treasure chest of stunning vistas, towering rock formations and forests of birch, pine and cedar. Visitors traveling the perimeter of Mackinac Island on scenic M-185 pass not one but several markers pointing out "Entering Mackinac Island State Park." It's a small indication of the patchwork of land parcels that comprise the 127-year-old park.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission works to make as much of the island as possible available to the public. It takes constant vigilance, monitoring property lines and development on the island, to ensure public property rights are not lost to private devel-

opers. Staff has successfully secured state, federal and private grants to fund future purchases of land and development rights, investigating potential purchases and negotiating transactions.

"Land protection is among the most important accomplishments of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission," said Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) Director Carl R. Nold. "Under MSHP stewardship, Chimney Rock will be protected for the public forever."

Since 1994, the Commission has protected nearly 15 percent of the 8.2-mile shore of Mackinac Island with conservation easements, development rights protection, outright purchase or gifts of land and protective covenants. Mackinac Island State Park now comprises over 80% of Mackinac Island.

The commission also authorized the purchase of a 0.69-acre parcel of property adjoining Tranquil Bluff Trail for \$103,000. The purchase will be made with grant funds secured by MSHP from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Federal Highway Administration TEA-21 Transportation Enhancement funds administered through the Michigan Department of Transportation.



The Michigan Commission on Asia in the Schools, established within the Department of History, Arts and Libraries by Governor Engler in March, will release its report and recommendations in November. The report will summarize the Commission's findings about what Michigan schools are currently teaching about Asia, a region that Michigan students know far too little about. Asia is home to over half the world's population, politically strategic nations, and the fastest growing economies in the world.

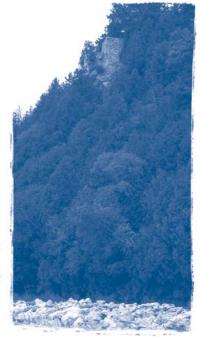
Without adequate preparation and background in Asian affairs, cultures and languages, our students will lack important skills to lead, live and work in the global multi-cultural marketplace. The Commission's report will recommend state and local educational policy makers, educators, and community leaders take specific steps to encourage more teaching and learning

about Asia and the world by further work in these areas:

- Expanding educational quality
- Enhancing teacher preparation, professional development, and resources
- Enlisting state leadership and community support

The report, which will also include a resource guide for educators, will be sent to schools and legislators in November and will be available on the HAL Web page at www.michigan.gov/hal.

Michigan's will be the first state report issued in the national effort to promote more education about Asia, coordinated by the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools (co-chaired by Governor Engler).



Coming Soon to a Computer Near You... The New HAL Web Site

The Department of History, Arts and Libraries will soon unveil an updated and expanded Web site, to include content from all of HAL's agencies. Our Web address will remain the same – www.michigan.gov/hal. Watch for these features on the new site:

Our Agencies – the starting place to find basic information about each of the agencies that make up HAL, boards and commissions, HAL contacts, employment opportunities and how the public can get involved through volunteering or making donations.

Exhibits & Events – What is happening at the Michigan Library and Historical Center and around the state at museums, libraries, art fairs and workshops; how to schedule a tour of the Michigan Historical Museum or Library of Michigan and Michigan Week information.

Find It Online – Michigan facts, virtual tours, Michigan photos, the Michigan eLibrary, and resources for students.

Services and Collections – Information about some of the services and resources HAL provides, such as genealogy, arts and culture, government documents, historic preservation, the law library, research services, the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Michigan Newspaper Project.

For the Professional – Resources for state legislators, library staff, teachers and state and local government, as well as research assistance.

Grants – Information about grants that have been awarded around the state for arts and cultural projects, historic preservation and libraries and how to apply for these grants.

Publications and Products – Look here to find what HAL has in print and now online!

Cultural Tourism: Encouraging Future Economic Growth

The cultural tourism experience is gaining momentum throughout the country, as more and more communities link their cultural resources with their tourism industry. Ideally, cultural tourism programs give the visitor the opportunity to experience unique community resources that might normally be overlooked, resulting in greater attendance at local attractions, restaurants and lodging facilities. These additional visitors will contribute to the local economy, instead of just driving through to the next region.

In recognition of the fact that tourism ranks among the top three industries in Michigan, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries is spearheading an effort to help communities marshal their cultural tourism resources - many of which already provide first-rate experiences - for greater economic benefit. Four Michigan tourism destinations, encompassing the Port Huron, Marquette/Negaunee, South Haven and Ludington/Manistee areas, will serve as pilot models for communities around the state.

Planning tourism efforts together, history museums, art galleries, theme parks, zoos, orchestras and symphonies will share information to develop a dynamic cultural tourism program that is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

To be part of this cultural tourism pilot project, each community must demonstrate a commitment by making a \$2,000 contribution. This helps fund the all-important audit program and follow-up recommendations. Just as important, the community must be committed to building a collaborative cultural tourism experience and serving as a mentor for other communities.

"The new spirit of partnership among our various tourism-related agencies was proof positive that these groups could work together toward a common goal, and it prompted us to be part of the Cultural Tourism Pilot Project," said Stephen Williams, pilot project coordinator for the Port Huron area, which has completed the audit team visit. "Our participation in the project provided us another important opportunity to develop our collaboration even more. Our organizational relationships became even stronger, and the number of groups directly participating grew."

With follow-up programs and mentoring, the results of the pilot project will encourage more communities throughout the state to be shareholders in Michigan's cultural tourism efforts and reap the economic benefits of offering a unique visitor experience

Our Mission

The Mission of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries is to enrich the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage, and fostering cultural creativity. The department includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office, the Michigan Historical Center and the Library of Michigan.

Handy HAL contacts

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Michigan Historical Center Foundation

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Michigan Historical Museum

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Office of the State Archaeologist

General Information: (517) 373-6358

State Archives of Michigan

General Information: (517) 373-1408 Reference Desk: (517) 373-1414

Michigan History Magazine:

General Information: (517) 373-3703 Subscription Information

& Orders: (800) 366-3703

State Historic Preservation Office

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